GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4499
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2017
Guidelines For Research/Diagnostic Facilities
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)the criterion being followed by the Government to inspect the facilities using radioactive materials for diagnostic or research purposes in the country;

(b)whether the cases of violations of the standard guidelines/norms followed by such facilities have come to the notice of the Government during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c)if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor along with the action taken/being taken by the Government in such cases so far;

(d)whether the Government has reviewed the regulatory framework established for such facilities during the said period; and

(e)if so, the details and outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

(a)The regulatory inspections of radiation facilities are undertaken by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) as per the provisions of the Atomic Energy (Radiation Protection) Rules, 2004. The AERB Safety Manual entitled "Regulatory Inspection and Enforcement in Radiation Facilities, AERB/RF/SM/G-3, 2014" gives the criteria to be followed for undertaking inspections of various radiation facilities. A graded approach based on the hazard potential and complexity of the facility is adopted in undertaking the inspections. The manual enlists the periodicity of inspections and gradation of violations observed during the inspections. Inspections of facilities using radioactive materials for diagnostic or research purposes are carried out as per the above Manual with a periodicity of three years and a maximum of five years respectively. As per the manual, violations with severity levels 1 and 2 are categorized as major violations of the regulatory requirements which may have significant radiological safety considerations. Violations with severity levels 3 and 4 are categorized as minor violations of the regulatory requirements which may not have significant radiological safety considerations.

(b)&(c) Yes, Sir. Few cases of minor violations of severity levels 3 and 4 were observed during the inspections carried out for the mentioned period. These violations did not have any impact on overall radiation safety of the facility. Majority of the findings included non-availability of records in prescribed formats, non-display of procedures for handling unusual radiological occurrences, inadequate housekeeping of documents, incorrect signage of rooms handling radioactive sources, etc.

Number of inspections carried out state/UT wise for the mentioned period is given in Table annexed. Issuance of reports on the observations and recommendations is also a part of the inspection procedures. As per this, all the inspected facilities are issued such reports within the stipulated time. It is the requirement that the facilities have to submit a report to AERB on the actions taken for ensuring compliance with reported recommendations. In all the cases wherein the violations were noted, such reports have been issued and compliance on the same has also been received from the concerned facilities stating adherence to the recommendations given in the reports.

(d)No, Sir. However, it is a practice to periodically review the regulatory framework based on the experiences and findings of regulatory inspections including international developments in this regard.

(e)The violations observed during the inspections of the facilities using radioactive material for diagnostic and research purpose were of procedural lapses and hence, did not warrant revision of the existing regulatory framework.

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Table referred to in reply to parts(b)&(c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4499 for answer on 29.03.2017

Table 1: Year wise number of regulatory inspections of facilities using radioactive material for diagnostic and research purpose carried out by AERB

S.No State/UT Number of inspections
2013-14 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 till date

1	Assam	00	01	00	01
2	Andhra Pradesh	05	26	08	05
3	Bihar	01	00	02	01
4	Chhattisgarh	01	01	00	00
5	Delhi	24	04	27	13
6	West Bengal	06	13	07	01
7	Goa	00	00	02	00
8	Gujarat	02	02	10	06
9	Haryana	01	05	07	00
10	Himachal Pradesh	00	00	01	00
11	Jharkhand	00	00	01	00
12	Jammu & Kashmir	00	02	00	00
13	Kerala	02	12	04	02
14	Karnataka	07	17	07	05
15	Maharashtra	18	31	27	17
16	Madhya Pradesh	00	05	06	00
17	Odisha	00	02	03	01
18	Punjab	04	07	02	03
19	Puducherry	00	00	01	00
20	Rajasthan	01	01	04	04
21	Tamil Nadu	06	19	02	05
22	Uttar Pradesh	14	06	08	04
23	Uttarakhand	04	00	00	00
Total		96	154	129	68

Note:
1. State/UTs not included in the above table may not have authorised facilities using radioactive material for diagnostic and research purpose

2. Number of facilities in the Telagana are included in Andhra Pradesh and those in Chandigarh are included in Punjab.

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